

**CLASSIFICATION**

SECRET  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

**REPORT**

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 17 March 1955

**SUBJECT** Publication of Grotewohl's Speech

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

**SUPPLEMENT  
REPORT NO.**

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U. S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR DISCLOSURE OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THIS PROHIBITION IS FINE OR IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In the early evening hours of 30 November 1954, the speech given by Grotewohl in Moscow was transmitted by teleprinter to the ADN news agency. The wording of the report was rather clumsy because the text had obviously been translated from Russian into German. The first part of the report did not contain anything unusual, but the conclusion was rather startling because it mentioned that the GDR would be forced to organize a national army if the Paris agreements were ratified. Before publishing the startling part of the report, Deba Wieland informed the GDR Foreign Office, which upon inquiry at Moscow was told that the report was to be published in its entirety. At 2300 hours, ADN thereupon released the second part of Grotewohl's speech for publication. Neues Deutschland, the only GDR newspaper which would have been in a position to publish the unabbreviated report, did not do so in its issue of 1 December and left but the part in which Grotewohl spoke of the necessity of establishing a national army.
2. On 1 December, Paul Verner of the Committee for German Unity ordered the editors-in-chief of GDR newspapers to publish Grotewohl's Moscow speech in full without unduly underlining that part of the speech which dealt with the organization of a GDR army. On the contrary, the newspapers were strictly ordered to denounce those West German newspapers which had given too much publicity to Grotewohl's announcement that a national army would have to be created. The directives issued said that the most essential point of the speech involved was the renewed offer for further negotiations. These directives were reflected in the headlines published by the Neues Deutschland and Berliner Zeitung on 2 December in which the Western press was criticized for falsifying the essence of Grotewohl's report.
3. On 2 December, Paul Verner ordered the GDR press to lay the greatest stress on that part of Grotewohl's speech in which the necessity of the establishment of an East German national army was stressed. This was to be treated as a last and very serious warning given to the West.

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4. On 3 December, Georg Hansen, press chief of the SED Politbüro, visited the ADN office and gave orders to publish all comments in the Western press which underlined the seriousness of the situation. The widest publicity should be given above all to comments which expressed the view that the Paris agreements were incompatible with the Franco-Soviet and Anglo-Soviet mutual assistance pacts on the one side, and with the Potsdam agreement on the other. The Potsdam agreement was to be brought up in connection with the Moscow conference and the trial against the West German KPD before the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe. Hansen ordered that great stress be laid on the legal validity and the political implications of the Potsdam agreement. To annul this agreement by a one-sided declaration would also invalidate all the subsequent pacts concluded on the basis of this agreement among the occupation powers in Germany. He referred in this connection to the stationing of occupation forces on German territory, the occupation of West Berlin by the Western powers, and the existence of an air corridor to Berlin. Hansen also indicated that the USSR was entitled to annul the Potsdam agreement in the event of the ratification of the Paris treaties.

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